

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. For stations that provide any news coverage, there should be balanced reporting, and that particularly includes any stories relating to the upcoming presidential election.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. With the potential for a few broadcasting companies to permit such politically-motivated influence over programming is not in the public interest. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.